

**Amendments to the SPECIFICATION**

[29] In yet another embodiment of the present invention related to the code word definition, the length ~~[of the code word]~~ of the code word may be defined as  $N + K$ , where again  $N$  represent the number of bits and  $K$  may represent one of two numbers defined by Bit 8. For example,  $K$  may be defined as '3' when Bit 8 is '0'; or  $K$  may be defined as '5' when Bit 8 is '1'. Thus, in the embodiment, the code word length is variable.

[50] An alternate video encoding scheme is set out in commonly assigned Non-provisional Application Serial No. 10/034,414 dated December 27, 2001 (Attorney Docket No. 13315US02), titled "Video Encoding Scheme Supporting The Transport of Audio and Auxiliary Information" the complete subject matter of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Furthermore, the audio data may be transmitted during the blanking periods, as described in non-provisional patent application Serial No. 09/951,289 filed September 12, 2001, and non-provisional patent application Serial No. 09/951,671 filed March 9, 2001, which applications are hereby incorporated by reference. The audio data can be transmitted during the blanking periods also as described in other blanking period mechanisms.